

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. In this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 19, 21, 22, 26, and 29 have been amended, and claims 2, 5-7, 10, 15-18, 20, 23-25, and 28 have been canceled. In the amended claims, the term "radiation image reading apparatus" has been replaced by a corresponding term "radiation image generating apparatus," and the limitations relating to the photostimulable phosphor sheet have been deleted.

Proposed claims:

Claims 1 to 9, 12, 15, 16, and 19 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Tamakoshi (US Patent Publication 2002/0063226). Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

With respect to the amended claim 1, paragraph [0040] of Tamakoshi does not disclose or suggest that the radiation image generating apparatus searches the operation control information from the data base by receiving the search order from the controller.

Paragraph [0040] of Tamakoshi discloses that the radiation-image reading apparatus searches the record in the data base by using the discrimination information of the radiation-image storing sheet.

That is, in Tamakoshi, the radiation-image reading apparatus itself searches the database without using the order outputted from another apparatus. See also paragraph [0078].

In the presently claimed invention, the radiation image generating apparatus (corresponding to the radiation image reading apparatus 1) searches the operation control

information using the search order from the controller as a trigger.

With respect to the amended claim 3, paragraphs [0121] to [0129] of Tamakoshi does not disclose or suggest that the radiation image generating apparatus registers the status information in the database.

Paragraphs [0121] to [0129] of Tamakoshi disclose only the following operations which are carried out when the radiation image that is read from the radiation-image storing sheet cannot be transmitted to the specified controller 2.

(a) The alarm is displayed by the control from the radiation-image reading apparatus 1 or server 4 (database), or the communication fault is displayed by providing means for detecting the communication fault.

(b) When the communication fault is detected, as the resolving means, (1) the user selects the other controller 2 and sends the controller ID number of the return address to the radiation-image reading apparatus 1 holding the image data, and requires the return of the image data; (2) the user selects the other controller 2, and registers the operator ID number and sends the operator ID number and the controller ID number of the return address to all of the radiation-image reading apparatus 1, and requires the return of the image data having the transmitted operator ID number; and (3) the user selects the other controller 2, and registers the operator ID number, sends the operator ID number and the controller ID number of the return address to the server 4, and requires the return of the image data having the transmitted operator ID number.

In view of the above discussions, Applicant respectfully submits that Tamakoshi does not disclose or suggest the limitation that a radiation image generating apparatus

registers the status information in the database.

The other rejected claims depend from amended claims 1 and 3 and therefore are also patentable.

The method claims are patentable for the same reasons as stated above.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or comments that would move the case towards allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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